

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 10.

Please add claims 20 and 21.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Currently amended) A connecting device ~~adapted~~ for providing an optical connection between an apparatus ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of ~~apparatus~~ ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals, and ~~at least one optical fiber being coupled to a connector, the connecting device comprises~~ comprising:

a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~ a plurality of adapters, wherein each of said plurality of adapters comprises ~~includes~~ an adapter contact ~~adapted for~~ providing a connection with one of ~~the~~ said plurality of apparatus ports, and a connector contact ~~adapted for~~ providing a connection with ~~the~~ said connector; and

a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device.

2. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said support plate provides a grip for substantially concurrently contacting all of ~~its~~ said plurality of adapters with ~~the respective apparatus~~ of said plurality of ports to be contacted.

3. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said adapter contacts and ~~the apparatus~~ said plurality of ports are ~~adapted for providing~~ provide a plug connection.

4. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said connector contacts and ~~the~~said connectors ~~are adapted for providing~~provide a connection selected from the group consisting of: a plug connection and/or, a screw connection, and a combination thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein: ~~the~~said support plate supports ~~at least two~~said plurality of adapters, ~~and all of said plurality of adapters of the~~said support plate are arranged in a straight line.

6. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising a grip provided by two opposing end portions of the~~said support plate ~~provide the grip.~~

7. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said end portions and ~~the~~said at least two adapters are arranged in a straight line.

8. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein: ~~the~~said adapter contacts of ~~at least two~~said plurality of adapters are adapted for the a port type selected from the group consisting of: the same apparatus-port type, and/or the adapter contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different apparatus-port types, and/or a combination thereof, and ~~the~~said connector contacts of ~~at least two~~said plurality of adapters are adapted for a connector type selected from the group consisting of: the same connector type, and/or the connector contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different connector types, and a combination thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein at least one adapter of said plurality of adapters is adapted for a connector and port selected from the group consisting of: a single-mode connector and apparatus-port,

~~and/or at least one adapter is adapted for a multi-mode connector and apparatus port,~~  
and a combination thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
at least one of ~~the~~said plurality of adapters is provided with ~~such a~~said locking  
device, ~~and~~  
~~the~~said support plate is ~~provided for simultaneously adjusting the~~activates each  
said locking devices ~~of all of its adapters between a locking state and a~~  
releasing state.

12. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
~~each~~said locking device ~~comprises~~includes at least one catching member mounted  
~~at the~~on one of said plurality of adapters and movable between a locking  
position and a release position,  
~~in the locking position the~~said catching member embraces a pin of ~~the~~said  
~~apparatus port when in said locking position, and~~  
~~in the release position the~~said catching member releases ~~the~~said pin when in said  
release position.

13. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 12, wherein  
~~the~~said locking device ~~comprises a release and/or locking mechanism adapted for~~  
~~providing~~is activated by said member of said support plate to move said catching  
member from thesaid release position ~~and/or the~~ to said locking position, ~~and wherein~~  
said locking device is de-activated by said member of said support plate to move said  
catching member from said locking position to said release position by activating the  
~~release and/or locking mechanism, and/or the locking device is adapted for providing~~  
~~the release position and/or the locking position passively by plugging the connecting~~  
~~device or by pulling the connecting device, respectively.~~

14. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~at least one of said plurality of adapters ~~is provided for receiving~~ receives at least one bare fiber.

15. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein said connector is coupled to an optical fiber, ~~the~~and wherein said support plate is provided withincludes a receptacle ~~adapted for mounting a cable channel receiving, protecting and guiding~~that receives, protects and guides the fibersaid optical fiber of eachsaid connecting device.

16. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
each adapter of said plurality of adapters is movably mounted on said support plate relative to ~~the~~said support plate and parallel to ~~the~~a plugging direction  
~~movably mounted at the support plate,~~  
~~the~~said support plate comprisesmember is at least one actuating member co-operating with at least one catching member of ~~the~~said adapter,  
a plug in movement of ~~the~~said support plate pushes ~~the~~said at least one actuating member ~~for urging the~~ to urge said respective at least one catching member into ~~its~~a locking position, and  
a plug off movement of ~~the~~said support plate pulls ~~the~~said at least one actuating member ~~for releasing to release~~ the said at least one respective catching member into ~~its~~a release position.

17. (Currently amended) A system, ~~in particular a signal processing system,~~  
comprising:  
at least one apparatus ~~comprising~~having a plurality of ~~apparatus~~ ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals;  
a plurality of ~~optical fibers each being coupled to a~~ connectors;  
at least one connecting device ~~adapted for providing optical connections between~~  
at least two of said plurality of apparatus ports and at least two of said plurality of connectors, wherein ~~the~~said connecting device ~~comprises~~includes

a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~ a plurality of adapters, and wherein each of said plurality of adapters ~~comprises~~ includes an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of ~~the~~ said plurality of apparatus ports, and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with one of said plurality of connectors; and  
a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device.

18. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein all of said plurality of ~~apparatus~~-ports assigned to the same connecting device are arranged in a straight line.

19. (Currently amended) A system for mounting a connecting device, wherein said connecting device ~~adapted for providing~~ provides an optical connection between an apparatus ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of ~~apparatus~~-ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals, and ~~at least one optical fiber being coupled to a connector,~~ wherein the said connecting device ~~comprises~~ includes a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~ a plurality of adapters, wherein each adapter ~~comprises~~ includes an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of ~~the~~ said plurality of apparatus-ports and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with ~~the~~ said connector, wherein said connecting device includes a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, and wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device, said system comprising components selected from the group consisting of:

at least two types of support plates selected from the group consisting of: support plates adapted for different types of adapters, and/or support plates adapted for different numbers of adapters, and/or a combination thereof,  
at least two types of adapters selected from the group consisting of: adapters adapted for different connectors, and/or adapters adapted for different apparatus-ports, and a combination thereof, and

a combination thereof.

20. (New) The connecting device according to claim 12, wherein said locking device is passively activated to said locking position by plugging-in said connecting device, and wherein said locking device is passively de-activated to said release position by pulling said connecting device.

21. (New) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein said member also interfaces with said locking device to de-activate said locking device.